

May 11, 2009 – 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Conference Call
RIO Office

Call in information:

Conference call number 1-866-685-1580
Conference call code 0009991691

Attendees in room:

Lt Gen Dardis
Emily Hajek
Lynn R. Zook
Susan Dixon
Tina Potthoff
Susan Judkins Josten
Ken Tow
Julie Struck
Jacqui DiGiacinto
Stephanie Kindred

On the phone:

Bill Bywater
Bill Gerhard
Jim Davis
Jim Faussett
Karris Golden
Brent Halling
Nitza Lopez-Castillo
Gary Anderson
Tim Hurley
Mike King
Linda Larkin
Mark Wandro

Mike Earley

Others on the line:

Pam Griffin
Joyce Duncan
Ann Poe
Kerri Smith United Way
City of Iowa City
Paula Ipsman-Democratic House

Lt. General Ron Dardis welcomed RIAC Commission members and noted his appreciation for taking time out of their schedules to meet. The agenda was set as follows: to provide a legislative update, to share the schedule of commemoration events, and to speak about the Coordinating Council and the future of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Committee (RIAC).

General Dardis thanked commission members for their hard work, attendance at meetings and work on reports. He also congratulated commission members as the Legislature acted on all twelve RIAC recommendations in one way or another. General Dardis said there was a strong call to action and the legislators agreed with the recommendations made by the RIAC. General Dardis commended members of the Legislature and Governor Culver for their dedication to the recovery process.

At the last RIAC meeting, recommendations regarding flood insurance, safe rooms and flood task forces were discussed. There was some concern about whether appropriations proposals would pass and several of those did not. However, the Rebuild Iowa Office remains pleased with the outcome of the legislative session and will continue to work on suggestions for additional legislation during the 2010 session.

- **Legislative update** - Susan Judkins

RECOMMENDATION 1 Individual Services and Guidance – Iowa will provide advice and support to individuals and families seeking assistance in making their way through the challenges of rebuilding their lives in a disaster case management framework that has ongoing, lasting organizational capacity and processes in place to be sustained during non-disaster times.

□ [HF64, Disaster Assistance Bill, Division II](#) appropriates \$10 million to the Iowa Department of Human Services for the Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program. This program provides up to \$2,500 to disaster-impacted households for needs not met by other programs. Out of this funding, \$250,000 is transferred to the Iowa Department of Human Rights for Individual Development Accounts

□ [SF377, Prescription Drug Donation](#), allows the Iowa Department of Public Health to receive and distribute drugs after a disaster. The bill also provides immunity from civil or criminal prosecution to the Departments, its employees, agents and volunteers who act in good faith.

□ [SF478, Standing Appropriations Bill, Division XII](#), appropriates \$1 million of the original \$10 million Unmet Needs Disaster Grant funding to the Rebuild Iowa Office for payment to area long-term recovery committees (LTRCs) for expenses incurred in setting up the case management system, and authorizes LTRCs to seek reimbursement from DHS for payments made to households for unmet needs. Also appropriates \$1,150,000 to tornado-damaged communities, leaving \$7,850,000 for the Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program.

RECOMMENDATION 2 Housing – State and local governments will place a high priority on ensuring availability of adequate, affordable housing and the ability of individuals and families to rent or purchase those homes.

□ [HF64, Disaster Assistance Bill, Division I](#), appropriates \$24 million to the Iowa Finance Authority for the Jumpstart Housing Program.

□ [HF756, Floodplain Management Task Force](#) requires Iowa's [Water Resources Coordinating Council](#) to submit funding and policy recommendations by 11/15/09 promoting watershed management to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality.

□ [SF289, Loan Forgiveness for Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program](#) reduced from ten to five years

□ [SF376, I-Jobs Bonding Bill](#), appropriates \$5 million to the Iowa Finance Authority for Disaster Damage Housing Assistance grants to ease and speed recovery efforts from the natural disasters of 2008, including stabilizing neighborhoods, preventing population loss and neighborhood deterioration, and improving health, safety and welfare of persons living in disaster-damaged neighborhoods. See complete list of disaster-related appropriations under Recommendation #4.

□ [SF457, Financing Options for Cities and Counties After Disaster, Division IV](#), authorizes disaster recovery housing project tax credits, not to exceed \$3 million per year for five years, for eligible properties affected by the 2008 disasters.

RECOMMENDATION 3 The state should provide incentives for Iowa's struggling small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters.

□ [HF64, Disaster Assistance Bill, Division III](#), appropriates \$22 million to the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Community Disaster Grants to cities and counties for various needs including nonprofit and business assistance.

□ [SF478, Standing Appropriations Bill, Division XIV](#), requires the Iowa Department of Economic Development to create a Disaster Assistance Loan and Credit Guarantee Program to provide loan and credit guarantees to eligible businesses damaged by the 2008 disasters, not to exceed 10% of the loan or \$25,000, whichever is less. Funds may pay for productive equipment and machinery, land and real estate, working capital for operations, research and development, marketing, engineering and architectural fees, and other costs designated by IDED. Appropriates \$1.8 million from the Iowa Power Fund to the program.

RECOMMENDATION 4 Infrastructure Investments – The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction.

□ [HF705, Weather Safe Rooms](#) requires State Building Code Commissioner to develop standards for use by property owners who wish to incorporate weather safe rooms into public and private buildings. The rules will not be adopted until after the General Assembly has convened in 2010 and has had a chance to consider the proposed rules and a joint report from the Commissioner, the Department of Public Defense, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Rebuild Iowa Office on best practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of safe rooms. The joint report is due to the governor and General Assembly by 12/15/09.

□ [HF820, Federal and Stimulus Appropriations](#), outlines use of federal funds in Iowa, including explanation of the Fall 2008 appropriation of \$125,297,142 from CDBG funds under federal Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, Pub. L. No. 110-329 to the Iowa Department of Economic Development for disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure.

□ [HF822, Infrastructure Appropriations, Division I](#), appropriates \$24.7 million to the Iowa Department of Transportation to assist local governments to rebuild and repair local roads, with 50% allocated to cities and 50% to counties.

□ [SF376, I-Jobs Bonding Bill](#), provides

- \$165 million for disaster-related projects including \$46.5 million for specific projects and \$118.5 million for competitive grants for local infrastructure projects related to disaster and flood rebuilding and prevention;
- \$13.5 million to DNR for purposes including construction or repair of structures for purposes including mitigating flood damage or the threat of flood damage in areas most severely affected by the 2008 flood;
- \$5 million to IFA for Disaster Damage Housing Assistance grants to ease and speed recovery efforts from the natural disasters of 2008, including stabilizing neighborhoods, preventing population loss and neighborhood deterioration, and improving health, safety and welfare of persons living in disaster-damaged neighborhoods;
- \$11.5 million to IDALS for purposes including reconstruction or repair of permanent soil and water conservation practices damaged by the 2008 flood;
- \$1 million for a Waterloo railroad bridge damaged by the 2008 flood;
- And makes changes to the bonding authority of the Iowa Board of Regents, allowing them to bond for construction of replacement facilities and flood recovery and flood mitigation expenses resulting from a disaster proclaimed in accordance with Iowa Code Section 29C.6. See SF474, for authorization to bond \$100 million for flood repair and mitigation at the U of I.

□ [SF474, Regents Bonding](#), authorizes the Iowa Board of Regents to issue \$100 million in revenue bonds, secured by student fees and charges and institutional income, for flood repair and mitigation at the University of Iowa; and \$15 million for ISU's veterinary medical facilities

□ [SF478, Standing Appropriations Bill, Division II](#), appropriates \$25.6 million for 10% state match to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds.

□ [SF482, Iowa Summer Youth Corps and Iowa Green Corps Programs](#), authorizes the Iowa Summer Youth Corps to participate in service learning activities covering six areas, including emergency and disaster preparedness; and the Iowa Green Corps will use AmeriCorps or Iowa Summer Youth Corps Program volunteers to provide capacity building activities in certain projects, including storm water reduction and management projects, and targeted in communities working with existing community improvement programs or requiring disaster remediation activities in an area declared a disaster area by the president or governor.

RECOMMENDATION 5 The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa.

- [HF64, Disaster Assistance Bill](#) appropriates \$56 million for disaster recovery efforts including \$22 million in Division III for Community Disaster Grants to cities and counties.
- [HF414, Appropriation and Deappropriation Bill](#), authorizes use of funds scooped from other programs in September 2008 for the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program, which totaled \$40 million.
- [SF44, Local Option Sales Tax](#), expedites the process for disaster-affected communities to allow voters to consider imposing a local option sales tax.
- [SF81, School District Disaster Recovery](#), assists schools with recovering from disaster by changing the approval method for transfers from the emergency fund, modifying other funding provisions related to disaster recovery, and authorizing AEA boards to purchase and lease-purchase property.
- [SF336, Optional Waiver of Local and Private Match Requirement](#) for applicants from declared disaster areas to Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) and River Enhancement CAT (RECAT) Programs.
- [SF344, Economic Development Programs](#), authorizes use of specified economic development programs for disaster-related funding in the future.
- [SF376, I-Jobs Bonding Bill](#), see listing under Recommendation #4.
- [SF415, City Acquisition of Disaster-affected Abandoned Property](#), creates an alternative process for cities in 2008 disaster areas to acquire abandoned property damaged by disaster that constitutes a public nuisance and is not feasible to rehabilitate. Requires a city to attempt to notify the owner at least 30 days before filing a petition to award title to the city, and requires waiting at least 60 days after filing the petition to hold a public hearing. The petition must be dismissed if the court receives a written request from the owner. Requires the city to pay the fair market value of the current condition of the property. If the payment is not claimed within two years, the funds are transferred to the city.
- [SF457, Financing Options for Cities and Counties After Disaster](#) includes changes for cities and counties affected by disaster related to local bonding, contract letting, lease or lease-purchase contract requirements, loan agreement requirements, definitions of essential county purpose and essential corporate purpose; legalizes certain actions taken in response to natural disaster; and allows disaster-affected cities and counties to amend their FY08 budgets. Also authorizes disaster recovery housing project tax credits for eligible properties affected by the 2008 disasters.
- [SF474, Regents Bonding](#), authorizes the Iowa Board of Regents to issue \$100 million in revenue bonds, secured by student fees and charges and institutional income, for flood repair and mitigation at the University of Iowa; and \$15 million for ISU's veterinary medical facilities
- [SF478, Standing Appropriations Bill, Division XII](#), appropriates \$1.15 million to seven Iowa communities damaged by tornadoes in 2008.

□ [SF478, Standing Appropriations Bill, Division XXIII](#), authorizes cities to collect up to 5% in franchise fees, and requires that fees collected in excess of inspection and regulation costs for utilities be used for property tax relief, disaster projects or other specified purposes.

RECOMMENDATION 6 The state must invest in local emergency management agencies for the central coordination function and work in all areas of emergency management – preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation – to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters.

□ [SF280, Disaster Emergency Assistance Immunity](#), clarifies that an emergency for which immunity is provided to volunteers includes disasters for which the governor has declared a disaster emergency.

[SF441, Modifying Statewide Mutual Aid Compact](#), by including local emergency management commissions as participating governments in the statewide mutual aid compact.

RECOMMENDATION 7 The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.

[SF114, Historic Preservation Grants](#), allows more than one grant per county by authorizing funding for projects totaling no more than \$200,000 per county, with a limit of \$100,000 per project.

[SF481, Historic Preservation Tax Credits](#), increases cap from \$20 million to \$50 million per year, with 20% of the tax credits dedicated to disaster recovery projects. Unused credits from projects in Cultural and Entertainment Districts (which receive 30% of the total credits) and projects that create 500 or more new jobs (which receive 20% of the total credits) will revert to use for disaster recovery projects.

[HF822, Infrastructure Appropriations, Division VIII](#), outlines criteria for projects considered for River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism funding. These projects create or enhance recreational opportunities and community attractions on and near lakes or rivers or river corridors within cities across Iowa.

RECOMMENDATION 8 The state will lead in developing guidance and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.

[HF756, Flood Plain Management Task Force](#), requires Iowa's [Water Resources Coordinating Council](#) to submit funding and policy recommendations by 11/15/09 promoting watershed management to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality.

RECOMMENDATION 9 The state will move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management.

[HF756, Flood Plain Management Task Force](#) includes a provision clarifying that nothing in Iowa Code Section 455B regarding authority of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for flood plain control shall be construed as limiting the authority of a city or

county to adopt an ordinance regulating a junkyard located within a five hundred year flood plain.

[HF822, Infrastructure Appropriations, Iowa Flood Center](#), establishes the Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa in Division VI and appropriates \$1.3 million to the Iowa Flood Center in Division I. Purposes include developing hydrologic models for flood forecasting and flood plain inundation mapping, establishing community-based programs to improve flood monitoring, sharing resources and expertise, and to develop a knowledgeable workforce regarding flood research, prediction and mitigation strategies.

RECOMMENDATION 10 The state will complete flood plain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology. The state will pursue and implement the mapping process and related activities as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical.

[HF759, City/County Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program](#), requires cities and counties with existing FEMA flood plain maps designating a flood hazard area within their boundaries to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by 6/30/11. As new and updated FEMA maps identify such hazard areas, cities and counties will have two years from publication date of the map to participate in the NFIP. State funding assistance in the event of a future flood will be withheld from noncompliant communities after these deadlines. Also requires RIO, the Division of Insurance, and Department of Homeland Security to collaborate in recommending policies and incentives to House and Senate committees by 12/15/09 to expand availability and purchase of flood insurance in Iowa.

[HF822, Infrastructure Appropriations](#), provides funding and FTEs to the Department of Natural Resources for flood plain management to support the mapping process (funding for the mapping was secured from federal sources) and authorizes funding for flood gauges (Division I); and charges the Iowa Flood Center at the University of Iowa with developing models for flood plain inundation mapping (Division VI).

RECOMMENDATION 11 Rebuild Iowa Office Roles and Responsibilities – The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery.

[HF64, Disaster Assistance Bill, Division IV](#) formalizes the Rebuild Iowa Office until 6/30/11 and establishes the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council.

[HF809, Administration and Regulation Appropriations Bill](#), authorizes FTEs and FY10 funding for the Rebuild Iowa Office.

RECOMMENDATION 12 All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should promote and support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.

[HF64, Disaster Assistance Bill, Division IV](#) establishes the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council to facilitate communication between state agencies and the Rebuild Iowa Office, and requires state agencies to cooperate with and provide support to the Rebuild Iowa Office to the greatest extent practicable.

HF811, [Health and Human Services Appropriations, Division XI](#), places a new “Iowa Public Health Modernization Act” in Iowa Code to address components of public health including preparation for, response to, and recovery from public health emergencies and disasters.

QUESTIONS:

1. Regarding safe rooms, was anything addressed regarding communities with trailer courts? Will they be required to have safe rooms?
 - A. Nothing was made mandatory. When the building code is created, there will be standards as far as what it should look like, but there are no requirements for buildings or businesses to have safe rooms.

- **Commemoration Events – Tina Potthoff**

Commemoration events

The Rebuild Iowa Office is working with communities to publicize commemoration events. More specific commemoration information will be posted on the RIO’s Web site as details are finalized by each community. The Rebuild Iowa Office has asked other communities to send in information regarding their commemoration activities. The RIO Communications Team will send commemoration media advisories out every Monday. This is to ensure that the RIO is touching base with as many communities as possible.

At each commemoration event, there will be a RIO Resource Booth where staff members will hand out disaster assistance information, answer questions about the recovery and pass out Speak Up Iowa II surveys. These surveys are meant to gauge how Iowans feel the recovery is going, discover where Iowans are getting their information and gather suggestions on how to make the recovery process better. The RIO is also working to get a representative from the local COG or Entitlement City to be available at the RIO Resource Booth, as well as a local mental health worker and a representative from the local Long-Term Recovery Committee.

General Dardis has already participated in one commemoration event at the Little Sioux Boy Scout Camp on May 2. More than 1,000 boy scouts were present. General Dardis provided comments at the ceremony.

Listed Commemoration Events (as of May 11):

Parkersburg - May 23-25

New Hartford - May 25

Palo - May 30

Waterloo - May 28-31

Mason City - June 07

Cedar Rapids - June 11-13

Oakville - June 12-14

Iowa City's Idyllwild neighborhood - June 13

Olin - June 13 or 14

Waverly - June 13

Cedar Falls - June 24

- **Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council – General Dardis**

Since the beginning of the Rebuild Iowa Office, Point of Contact meetings were used to encourage the coordination between different programs and state offices. These meetings will continue, but will include representatives from state and federal offices. Inter-Agency Coordination Team (IACT) meetings will move forward as the operational group, whereas the Coordinating Council has the opportunity to be more policy-focused. The IACT meetings will occur every other month opposite the Coordination Council in order to facilitate communication between state and federal agencies and the RIO office.

House File 64 Discussions:

House File 64 called for the creation of the Coordinating Council. This will include General Dardis, numerous Departments heads in state government, the Office of Energy, Iowa Utilities Board, League of Cities, Council of Governments and representation from the House and Senate. The bill provides for the Executive Director to request representation from other state agencies and requires all state agencies to cooperate with and support the RIO. The bill was made retroactive to June 27, 2008 and will be repealed at the sunset date. The Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council will act as a midcourse analysis group. They will be in charge of looking at what aspects of the recovery are going well, what needs attention or improvement, and what areas are in need of changes. The first Coordinating Council meeting will occur May 19.

- **The Future of RIAC – General Dardis**

At the last RIAC meeting, the future of the RIAC was discussed. The majority of the RIAC members felt the charge for the Commission had been completed with the 45 and 120-day reports. However, not all members felt that way and wanted to stay in order to further their participation. General Dardis suggested the RIAC continue to provide oversight of the Rebuild Iowa Office. General Dardis felt strongly that the RIAC should continue in some capacity through the sunset date of the office. Periodic updates could continue as necessary. The RIAC could then determine the frequency moving forward such as quarterly conference calls, meetings or e-mail updates. General Dardis welcomed the participation of those who wanted to continue with the Commission and be engaged in the recovery process.

Commission member Bill Bywater was in agreement that it is important to continue the RIAC as oversight for the Rebuild Iowa Office. Bill Bywater also wanted the RIAC to help make recommendations for future legislation.

Bill Bywater, Jim Fausett, Mike King, Bill Gerhard, Mark Wandro, Karris Golden and Mayor Hurley all felt that continuing the RIAC was important and expressed their desire to continue with the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.